

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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R 021505Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1492

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (DATE - LINE 3 - SUMMARY)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: FDP LEADERS SUPPORT SPD, CRITICIZE CDU

SUMMARY. IN VARIOUS STATEMENTS OVER THE WEEKEND,
LEADING FDP POLITICIANS MADE CLEAR THAT FDP/SPD
COALITION IN BONN MUST CONTINUE UNTIL 1976. YSPECULA-
TION CONTINUES REGARDING THEIR INTENTIONS BEYOND 1976.
END SUMMARY.

1. GENSCHER, MAIHOFFER, FRIEDERICH, LAMSDORFF,
BANGEMANN AND OTHERS TOOK OCCASION OF FDP PARTY
CONGRESSES IN NRW AND BADEN-WUERTEMBERG TO PROCLAIM
CONTINUED LOYALTY TO THE COALITION WITH THE SPD. THEY
EMPHASIZED THAT THE FDP IS AN INDEPENDENT PARTY AND IS
NOT BOUND SLAVISHLY TO ANY PARTICULAR COALITION PARTNER.

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HOWEVER, SAID GENSCHER, "THE FDP-SPD GOVERNMENT IN BONN

HAS PERFORMED EXCELLENTLY, WHEREAS THE CDU/CSU HAS NO SUBSTANTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO OFFER ON ANY ISSUE."

2. COMMENT: THE RECENT STATE AND LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS HAVE FUELED SPECULATION THAT THE FDP MIGHT BE HAVING SERIOUS SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF CONTINUING THE COALITION WITH THE SPD. SOME IN THE FDP, NOTABLY RIEMER, HAVE SUGGESTED PUBLICLY THAT THE PARTY SHOULD REAPPRAISE THE SITUATION. BUT FEW HAVE CONSIDERED A BASIC SHIFT BY THE FDP BEFORE 1976 TO BE A SERIOUS POSSIBILITY. WHAT IS UNCERTAIN IS WHAT THE FDP WILL DECIDE TO DO AFTER THE 1976 ELECTIONS AND WHETHER IT WILL SIGNAL ITS INTENTIONS BY ENTERING COALITIONS WITH THE CDU IN ANY OF THE LAENDER BETWEEN NOW AND THEN. FDP GAINS IN THE RECENT ELECTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN AS GREAT AS SOME EXPECTED OR AS POLLSTERS PREDICTED, AND SOME ARGUE THAT THE PARTY IS SUFFERING FROM ITS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE SPD. ON THE OTHER HAND, A BASIC SHIFT WOULD BE A SERIOUS STRAIN ON THE PARTY INTERNALLY AND WOULD COST IT SOME CREDIBILITY. ALSO, MANY IN THE FDP BELIEVE THAT THE CDU IS NOT AN ATTRACTIVE COALITION PARTNER AS LONG AS ITS LEADERSHIP QUESTION IS UNRESOLVED.

3. ONE FURTHER FACTOR OF COURSE DESERVES ATTENTION. IT IS THAT THE FDP IS PRESENTLY ON THE EVE OF HAVING A LEADERSHIP CHANGE. SCHEEL, WHO IS BOUND FOR THE PRESIDENCY, IS IN EFFECT A LAME DUCK LEADER OF HIS PARTY AT PRESENT. GENSCHER STILL HAS NOT TAKEN OVER THE REIGNS OF LEADERSHIP. UNTIL THIS CHANGE TAKES PLACE THEREFORE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THE FDP UNDERGOING ANY REAL REVIEW OF ITS FUTURE COURSE.
HILLENBRAND

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TAGS: PINT, GE, SPD, FDP, (SCHEEL, WALTER), (GENSCHER, HANS-DIETRICH)
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